



Thanksgiving travel rush is back with some new habits



Travelers stand in line at a security checkpoint before boarding their flights the day before Thanksgiving, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, at Logan International Airport in Boston.
(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

By DAVID KOENIG and ALEXANDRA OLSON
Associated Press

The Thanksgiving travel rush was back on this year, as people caught planes in numbers not seen in years, setting aside inflation concerns to reunite with loved ones and enjoy some normalcy after two holiday seasons marked by COVID-19 restrictions. Changing habits around work and play, however, might spread out the crowds and reduce the usual amount of holiday travel stress. Experts say many people will start holiday trips early or return home later than normal because they will spend a few days working remotely — or at least tell the boss they're working remotely.

The busiest travel days during Thanksgiving week are usually Tuesday, Wednesday and the Sunday after the holiday. This year, the Federal Aviation Administration

expects Tuesday to be the busiest travel day with roughly 48,000 scheduled flights. Chris Williams, of Raleigh, North Carolina, flew Tuesday morning with his wife and two kids to Atlanta, Georgia, to spend the holiday with extended family.

"But after a couple years of not getting to spend Thanksgiving with our extended family, I'd say we're feeling thankful that the world's gotten to a safe enough place where we can be with loved ones again." Although Williams said the family's budget has been tight this year, he's capitalized on the opportunity to teach his kids some personal finance basics. His youngest, 11, has been learning how to budget her allowance money since March and is excited to buy small gifts for her friends on Black Friday or Cyber Monday. "Probably slime," she said, "with glitter."

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Recognition of six musical legends



Trade mission to fortify commercial links between Aruba and Panama



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Continued from Front

The Transportation Security Administration screened nearly 2.3 million travelers on Tuesday, down from more than 2.4 million screened the Tuesday before Thanksgiving in 2019. On Monday, the numbers were up versus 2019 — more than 2.6 million travelers compared with 2.5 million. That same trend occurred Sunday, marking the first year that the number of people catching planes on Thanksgiving week surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

"People are traveling on different days. Not everyone is traveling on that Wednesday night," says Sharon Pinkerton, senior vice president at the trade group Airlines for America. "People are spreading their travel out throughout the week, which I also think will help ensure smoother operations."

AAA predicts that 54.6 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home in the U.S. this week, a 1.5% bump over Thanksgiving last year and only 2% less than in 2019. The auto club and insurance seller says nearly 49 million of those will travel by car, and 4.5 million will fly between



Drivers travel on the New Jersey Turnpike and connecting roads in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022.

Wednesday and Sunday. U.S. airlines struggled to keep up as the number of passengers surged this year.

"We did have a challenging summer," said Pinkerton, whose group speaks for members including American, United and Delta. She said that airlines have pared their schedules and hired thousands of workers — they now have more pilots than before the pandemic. "As a result, we're confident that the

week is going to go well." U.S. airlines plan to operate 13% fewer flights this week than during Thanksgiving week in 2019. However, by using larger planes on average, the number of seats will drop only 2%, according to data from travel-researcher Cirium.

Airlines continue to blame flight disruptions on shortages of air traffic controllers, especially in Florida, a major holiday destination. Controllers, who work for the Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration, "get tested around the holidays. That seems to be when we have challenges," Frontier Airlines CEO Barry Biffle said a few days ago. "The FAA is adding another 10% to headcount, hopefully that's enough."

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has disputed such claims, saying that the vast majority of delays and cancellations are caused by the airlines themselves. TSA expects airports to be busier than last year and

probably about on par with 2019. The busiest day in TSA's history came on the Sunday after Thanksgiving in 2019, when nearly 2.9 million people were screened at airport checkpoints.

Stephanie Escutia, traveling with four children, her husband and her mother, said it took the family four hours to get through checking and security at the Orlando airport early Tuesday. The family was returning to Kansas City in time for Thanksgiving after a birthday trip to Disney World.

"We were surprised at how full the park was," said Escutia, 32. "We thought it might be down some but it was packed."

She welcomed the sense of normalcy, and said her family would be gathering for Thanksgiving without worrying about keeping their distance this year. "Now we are back to normal and looking forward to a nice holiday," she said. People getting behind the wheel or boarding a plane don't seem fazed by higher gasoline and airfare prices than last year or the widespread concern about inflation and the economy. That is already leading to predictions of strong travel over Christmas and New Year's. □

Associated Press



President Joe Biden, center, standing next to Nantucket Fire Department Chief Michael Cranston, left, talks during a visit with firefighters on Thanksgiving Day at the Nantucket Fire Department in Nantucket, Mass., Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022.

Associated Press

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

NANTUCKET, Mass. (AP)

— President Joe Biden on Thursday delivered at least half a dozen pumpkin pies to Massachusetts firefighters during a Thanksgiving

Day show of appreciation and his toddler grandson walked away with a red fire hat topping his blond curls. "Oh wow," Biden was heard to say upon seeing Beau Biden, who is nearly 3, emerge from the head-

Biden brings Thanksgiving pies to Nantucket first responders

quarters building wearing the hat. The president was with the firefighters who had lined up outside the building to welcome him. Biden had expressed appreciation for firefighters and other emergency personnel earlier in the day when he and his wife, Jill, spoke by telephone to the hosts of NBC's broadcast of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

"I want to say thanks to the firefighters and police officers, first responders. They never take a break," he said during the call. The Bidens spoke later Thursday with units from each of the six branches of the U.S. military, stationed in Europe, at

sea, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, the White House said.

"We remember them every single day," he said during the broadcast. "God bless our troops." Jill Biden appeared to try to get her grandson to talk to the firefighters, but Beau would not look up. She was overheard saying she did not know why he was being so quiet. During a brief conversation with reporters, Biden said he hopes the upcoming Republican-controlled House will continue U.S. aid to Ukraine. He also said his team is involved in negotiations to avoid a freight rail strike in early December

that could further disrupt the economy.

After the visit, Biden returned to the Nantucket home where he is taking in the holiday with family, including son Hunter and his wife, Melissa — who are Beau's parents — and daughter Ashley.

They are camping out at a sprawling waterfront compound along Nantucket Harbor owned by David Rubenstein, co-founder of the Carlyle Group, a private equity firm. Biden celebrated Thanksgiving at the home in 2021.

The Bidens have a more than 40-year tradition of spending Thanksgiving on the Massachusetts island. □

High-flying balloon characters star in Thanksgiving parade

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Throngs of spectators lined the streets of New York on Thursday as colorful, high-flying balloons helped usher in the holiday season during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The annual tradition, which dates back nearly a century, packed streets as a procession of giant inflatables and floats streamed for more than 40 blocks from Central Park to Herald Square.

Children balanced atop metal barricades and hung from scaffolding to watch the balloons amid mostly sunny skies and a slight breeze.

"Blue, Blue. There's Blue," yelled Divyam Kumar, 6, as his father helped balance him and his 4-year-old brother Aanu Aryan on a metal rail.

The youngster was referring to the star of the animated show "Blue's Clues" — not to be confused with the international cartoon sensation Bluey, an Australian cattle pup making her parade debut.

Bluey's balloon towered as tall as a four-story building and stretched as wide as seven taxi cabs.

Stuart, the one-eyed Minion, was also there to thrill



The Tom Turkey float leads the way down Central Park West during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022, in New York.

the crowd.

But it was Snoopy that especially caught the eye of Brenner Chenenko, 8, even more so than the more contemporary pups.

"It's one of the classics," said the youngster from Rochester, New York, who lined the parade route with his father Nate and grandfather John Wopperer.

It was the first time the father and son had seen the parade in person. Wopperer last saw a parade live three years ago, before the pandemic sidelined the

event for a year.

Snoopy, dressed as an astronaut, was followed by another old-time favorite, Papa Smurf.

This year's parade featured 16 giant balloons, 28 floats, 40 novelty and heritage inflatables, 12 marching bands, 10 performance groups, 700 clowns and one Santa Claus.

The procession of characters were joined by singer Paula Abdul, in her first parade appearance; indie pop band Fitz and the Tantrums; boy band Big Time

Rush; "Blue's Clues & You!" host Josh Dela Cruz; singer Gloria Estefan; gospel singer Kirk Franklin; actor Mario Lopez; reggae star Ziggy Marley; and Miss America 2022 Emma Broyles.

Singers Joss Stone, Jordin Sparks and Betty Who were also part of the festivities, as were the stars of Peacock's "Pitch Perfect: Bumper in Berlin" — Adam Devine, Sarah Hyland and Flula Borg. Jimmy Fallon & The Roots were on a float celebrating Central Park. President Biden and Jill

Biden called into the parade, as he did last year. Biden thanked firefighters, police officers and first responders, saying, "They never take a break."

They thanked the troops and Biden said he would be reaching out to speak to some today.

Asked about their plans for the day in Nantucket, Massachusetts, the Bidens said it would involve family, and some time spent locally, thanking first responders.

In Plymouth, Massachusetts, the English settlement founded by the Pilgrims who arrived on the Mayflower, two annual events were being held to embrace "all aspects" of the holiday, town officials said.

Costumed participants were re-enacting their annual Thanksgiving Day "Pilgrim Progress" procession, representing the 51 survivors of that first brutal winter of 1621 — although Thursday's crew had better conditions, with sunny skies and temperatures in the 40s.

There also was a "National Day of Mourning" honoring indigenous ancestors and protesting against racism and oppression. "We are not vanquishing, We are not conquered, We are as strong as ever," a sign behind the speakers read. □

Peltola, 1st Alaska Native in Congress, wins full term

By **BECKY BOHRER**

Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — U.S. Rep. Mary Peltola has been elected to a full term in the House, months after the Alaska Democrat won a special election to the seat following the death earlier this year of longtime Republican Rep. Don Young. Peltola defeated Republicans Sarah Palin and Nick Begich, as well as Libertarian Chris Bye in the Nov. 8 election. Results of the ranked choice election were announced Wednesday. Palin and Begich also were candidates in the special election.

"It's a two-year contract,"

Peltola told the Anchorage Daily News after her victory — a 55%-45% margin over Palin in the final tabulation round — was announced. "I will be happy to work for Alaskans again, as long as they'll have me."

Peltola, who is Yup'ik, with her win in August became the first Alaska Native to serve in Congress and the first woman to hold Alaska's House seat. The win also buoyed her fundraising, outpacing those of her rivals in the lead-up to this month's election. Messages were sent to Palin's campaign Wednesday.

Begich congratulated Peltola in a statement, add-

ing: "Our nation faces a number of challenges in the coming years, and our representatives will need wisdom and discernment as they work to put America on a more sound path. My message to Alaskans is to continue to be involved and engaged."

Peltola embraced Young's legacy as she sought the two-year term and was endorsed by his daughters, one of whom presented her with a bolo tie of Young's at an Alaska Federation of Natives conference where Peltola was treated like a rock star. Young held the seat for 49 years.

Peltola was a state law-



U.S. Rep. Mary Peltola, D-Alaska, smiles before a debate for Alaska's sole U.S. House seat on Oct. 26, 2022, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

maker from the small rural hub community of Bethel for 10 years, ending in 2009. She surprised many with her fourth place finish in the June special primary, in

which she emerged from a field of 48 candidates that included current state and local officeholders. That finish was enough to send her to the special election. □

Writer who accused Trump of 1990s rape files new lawsuit

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A writer who accused former President Donald Trump of rape filed an upgraded lawsuit against him Thursday in New York, minutes after a new state law took effect allowing victims of sexual violence to sue over attacks that occurred decades ago.

E. Jean Carroll's lawyer filed the legal papers electronically as the Adult Survivor's Act temporarily lifted the state's usual deadlines for suing over sexual assault. She sought unspecified compensatory and punitive damages for pain and suffering, psychological harms, dignity loss and reputation damage.

Carroll, a longtime advice columnist for Elle magazine, first made the claim in a 2019 book, saying Trump raped her in the dressing room of a Manhattan luxury department store in 1995 or 1996.

Trump responded to the book's allegations by saying it could never have happened because Carroll was "not my type."

His remarks led Carroll to file a defamation lawsuit against him, but that lawsuit has been tied up in appeals courts as judges decide whether he is protected from legal claims for comments made while he was president.

Previously, Carroll had



E. Jean Carroll poses for a photo, Sunday, June 23, 2019, in New York.

been barred by state law from suing over the alleged rape because too many years had passed since the incident.

New York's new law, however, gives sex crime victims who missed deadlines associated with statute of limitations a second chance to file a lawsuit. A window for such suits will open for one year, after which the usual time limits will be reinstated. At least hundreds of lawsuits are expected, including many filed by women who say they were assaulted by co-workers, prison guards, medical providers or others.

Alina Habba, a lawyer for Trump, said in an email

Thursday: "While I respect and admire individuals that come forward, this case is unfortunately an abuse of the purpose of this Act which creates a terrible precedent and runs the risk of delegitimizing the credibility of actual victims." In her new claims, Carroll maintains that Trump committed battery "when he forcibly raped and groped her" and that he defamed her when he denied raping her last month.

Trump said in his statement that Carroll "completely made up a story that I met her at the doors of this crowded New York City Department Store and, within minutes, 'swooned' her. It is

a Hoax and a lie, just like all the other Hoaxes that have been played on me for the past seven years."

Carroll's new ability to sue Trump for rape could help her sidestep a potentially fatal legal flaw in her original defamation case.

If the courts ultimately hold that Trump's original disparaging comments about Carroll's rape allegation were part of his job duties, as president, she would be barred from suing him over those remarks, as federal employees are protected from defamation claims. No such protection would cover things he did prior to becoming president.

Judge Lewis A. Kaplan,

who presides over the defamation lawsuit Carroll filed three years ago, may decide to include the new claims in a trial likely to occur in the spring.

Trump's current lawyers said this week that they do not yet know whether they will represent him against the new allegations.

Carroll's attorney, Roberta Kaplan, who is not related to the judge, said at a court hearing this week that the new claims should not require much additional gathering of evidence. She already put a copy of the new claims in the original case file last week. Trump and Carroll also have already been deposed.

In a statement regarding the new lawsuit, Kaplan said her client "intends to hold Donald Trump accountable not only for defaming her, but also for sexually assaulting her, which he did years ago in a dressing room at Bergdorf Goodman."

"Thanksgiving Day was the very first day Ms. Carroll could file under New York law so our complaint was filed with the court shortly after midnight," she added. Attorney Michael Madai, a lawyer for Trump, said at the hearing that the new allegations are significantly different than the original defamation lawsuit and would require "an entirely new set" of evidence gathering. □

Men indicted for shooting at Mississippi delivery driver



This combination of booking photos provided by Lincoln County Sheriff's Department show Brandon Case, left, and his father Gregory Charles Case on Feb. 1, 2022.

Associated Press

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. (AP) — A father and son have

been indicted by a grand jury after allegedly chasing

and shooting at a FedEx driver in January after he dropped off a package in a Mississippi city.

Brandon and Gregory Case, who are both white, were re-arrested Friday and indicted for attempted first-degree murder, conspiracy and shooting into the vehicle of D'Monterrio Gibson, who is Black. The charges were upgraded from conspiracy and aggravated assault. Gibson, 24, was not injured. But the chase and gunfire have sparked social media complaints of racism in Brookhaven, about 55 miles (90 kilometers)

south of the state capital, Jackson. Gibson and his attorney, Carlos Moore, said they pushed prosecutors to secure an indictment for nearly 10 months.

Moore compared the incident to the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man who was running empty-handed through a Georgia subdivision in 2020 when three white strangers chased him down and blasted him with a shotgun.

Moore has called for a federal hate crime probe into the case. A Justice Department spokesperson

confirmed to The Associated Press in February that the department received a request to look into the case and was reviewing the request to determine any next steps. The department did not provide an update Tuesday. Gibson said he was wearing a FedEx uniform and was driving an unmarked van that FedEx had rented when he dropped off a package at a house in Brookhaven on Jan. 24. As he was leaving, he said he noticed a white pickup truck pulling away from another house on the same large lot. □

EU nations fail to close rift on gas prices as cold sets in

By **RAF CASERT**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — On winter's doorstep, European Union nations again failed to bridge bitter disagreements over a natural gas price cap Thursday as they struggle to effectively shield 450 million citizens from massive increases in their utility bills.

An emergency meeting of energy ministers only showed how the energy crisis tied to Russia's war in Ukraine has divided the 27-nation bloc into almost irreconcilable blocs.

"The discussion was quite heated, and you all know that there are very divergent views," said Czech Industry Minister Jozef Síkela, who chaired the meeting where ministers could not agree on when and how a price cap on gas purchases should kick in.

A massive August spike in natural gas prices stunned all but the wealthiest in Europe, forcing the bloc to look for a cap to contain volatile prices that are fueling inflation.

But the EU is deadlocked between nations demanding cheaper gas to ease household bills including Greece, Spain, Belgium, France and Poland and those like Germany and



Estonia's Energy Minister Riina Sikkut speaks with the press prior to participating in a meeting of EU energy ministers at an extraordinary energy council in Brussels, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022.

Associated Press

the Netherlands insisting supplies are at risk if a cap stops EU countries from buying gas above a certain price.

A solution was nowhere near the horizon to the frustration of many.

"It's already minus 10 (Celsius) in Poland," said the nation's energy minister, Anna Moskwa. "It's winter now." The inability to find a compromise on the price cap also held up plans for joint gas purchases and a solidarity mechanism to help the neediest member

states because the measures would be agreed on as a package.

Another emergency energy meeting was set for Dec. 13.

"The differences are really still major," said Dutch Energy Minister Rob Jetten. "It means there is an awful amount of work ahead over the next two weeks." Natural gas and electricity prices have soared as Moscow slashed gas supplies to Europe used for heating, electricity and industrial processes. European offi-

cials have accused Russia of energy warfare to punish EU countries for supporting Ukraine.

So finding a deal is not only about providing warmth to citizens but also about showing a united front to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Talks have dragged on for months, and even if a summit of EU leaders proclaimed some sort of breakthrough last month, nothing has been visible on the ground. Nations had been waiting for a propos-

al from the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, to set a threshold for a price cap, and when it came Tuesday, there was dismay and accusations it could never work.

The commission set a threshold for a "safety price ceiling" to kick in if prices exceed 275 euros per megawatt hour for two weeks and if they are 58 euros higher than the price for liquefied natural gas on world markets.

In political language, it means that such a system might not even have averted hikes as high as in August.

"Setting a ceiling at 275 euros is not actually a ceiling," said Greek Energy Minister Konstantinos Skrekas, who called for a cap that could go as low as 150 euros.

"We are losing valuable time without results," he added.

In comparison, the price stood at 123 euros per megawatt-hour on Europe's TTF benchmark Thursday. Because prices have fallen since the summertime peaks, diplomats have said the urgency has abated somewhat, even though it could pick up quickly again if the weather is colder than normal and supplies get tight. □

Russian Duma gives LGBTQ 'propaganda' bill final approval

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian lawmakers on Thursday gave their final approval to

a bill that significantly expands restrictions on activities seen as promoting gay

rights in the country, another step in a years-long crackdown on the country's embattled LGBTQ community.

The new bill expands a ban on what authorities call "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations" to minors, established by legislation dubbed the "gay propaganda" law. It was adopted by the Kremlin in 2013 in an effort to promote "traditional values" in Russia.

This year, the lawmakers moved to ban spreading such information to people aged 18 and older.

The bill was approved in the third and final reading on Thursday by the State Duma, the lower house of

parliament. It will go next to the upper house, the Federation Council, and then to President Vladimir Putin, whose signature will give it legal force.

The new bill outlaws all advertising, media and online resources books, films and theater productions deemed to contain such "propaganda," a concept loosely defined in the bill. The 2013 ban was often enacted against any depictions of same-sex unions and used as a tool to crack down on LGBTQ rights groups and activists.

Violations are punishable by fines. If committed by non-residents, they can lead to their expulsion from Russia.

The fines range from 100,000 to 2 million rubles (\$1,660-\$33,000).

For some violations, foreigners could face 15 days' detention prior to expulsion.

The bill does not make violations a criminal offense. Russian law stipulates that the criminal code can be amended only through an independent bill. Some lawmakers have suggested they favor such a measure. Russia explicitly outlawed same-sex marriages in 2020 by adopting amendments to the country's Constitution that, among other things, stipulated that the "institution of marriage is a union between a man and a woman." □



In this handout photo provided by The State Duma, The Federal Assembly of The Russian Federation, Russian lawmakers attend a session of the State Duma, the Lower House of the Russian Parliament in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022.

Associated Press

Brazil election agency rejects Bolsonaro push to void votes

By DAVID BILLER

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The head of Brazil's electoral authority has rejected the request from President Jair Bolsonaro's political party to annul ballots cast on most electronic voting machines, which would have overturned the Oct. 30 election.

Alexandre de Moraes had issued a prior ruling that implicitly raised the possibility that Bolsonaro's Liberal Party could suffer from such a challenge. He conditioned analysis of the request on the presentation of an amended report to include results from the first electoral round, on Oct. 2, in which the party won more seats in both congressional houses than any other, and he established a 24-hour deadline.

Earlier Wednesday, party president Valdemar Costa and lawyer Marcelo de Bessa held a press conference and said there would be no amended report.

"The complete bad faith of the plaintiff's bizarre and illicit request ... was proven, both by the refusal to add to the initial petition and the total absence of any



Electoral Court employees work on the final stage of sealing electronic voting machines in preparation for the general election run-off in Brasilia, Brazil, Oct. 19, 2022, ahead of the Oct. 30 second round vote.

evidence of irregularities and the existence of a totally fraudulent narrative of the facts," de Moraes wrote in his decision hours later.

He also ordered the suspension of government funds for the Liberal Party's coalition until a fine of 23 million reais (\$4.3 million) for bad faith litigation is paid. On Tuesday, de Bessa filed a 33-page request on be-

half of Bolsonaro and Costa citing a software bug in the majority of Brazil's machines they lack individual identification numbers in their internal logs to argue all votes they recorded should be nullified. De Bessa said that doing so would leave Bolsonaro with 51% of the remaining valid votes. Neither Costa nor de Bessa have explained how the bug might have affected

Associated Press

election results. Independent experts consulted by The Associated Press said that, while newly discovered, it doesn't affect reliability and each voting machine is still readily identifiable through other means. In his ruling, de Moraes noted the same. He also wrote that the challenge to the vote appeared aimed at incentivizing anti-democratic pro-

test movements and creating tumult, and ordered the investigation of Costa and the consultant hired to conduct an evaluation.

"De Moraes' message to the political establishment is: the game is over. Questioning the result of the elections is not fair play, and people and institutions who do that will be punished harshly," said Maurício Santoro, a political science professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro. In the press conference on Wednesday, Costa said his intention is merely to prevent the results of the 2022 vote from haunting Brazil into the future.

The electoral authority on Oct. 30 ratified the victory of Bolsonaro's nemesis, leftist former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and even many of the president's allies quickly accepted the results. Protesters in cities across the country have steadfastly refused to do the same, particularly with Bolsonaro declining to concede.

Bolsonaro spent more than a year claiming Brazil's electronic voting system is prone to fraud, without ever presenting evidence. □

El Salvador announces new anti-gang measures

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) —

The president of El Salvador announced Wednesday he will seal off sections of cities to search for street gang members, the latest phase in an increasingly tough nine-month anti-crime crackdown.

President Nayib Bukele told a gathering of 14,000 army troops that certain sectors of cities in El Salvador will be surrounded by police and soldiers, and that anyone entering or leaving will be checked. Bukele said such tactics worked in the town of Comasagua in October. Bukele called it "Phase Five" of the crackdown, which has jailed more than 58,000 people since a state

of emergency was declared following a wave of homicides in late March.

"Now comes phase five, which is rooting out the criminals that still remain in communities," Bukele said. In October, more than 2,000 soldiers and police surrounded and closed off Comasagua in order to search for street gang members accused in a killing. Drones flew over the town, and everyone entering or leaving the town was questioned or searched. About 50 suspects were detained in two days.

"It worked," Bukele said. The government estimates that homicides dropped 38% in the first 10 months of the year compared to the

same period of 2021.

Bukele requested Congress grant him extraordinary powers after gangs were blamed for 62 killings on March 26, and that emergency decree has been renewed every month since then. It suspends some Constitutional rights and gives police more powers to arrest and hold suspects. Under the decree, the right of association, the right to be informed of the reason for an arrest and access to a lawyer are suspended. The government also can intervene in the calls and mail of anyone they consider a suspect. The time someone can be held without charges is extended from three days to 15 days.



Police guard the streets in downtown San Salvador, El Salvador, March 27, 2022.

Associated Press

Rights activists say young men are frequently arrested just based on their age, on their appearance or whether they live in a gang-dominated slum. El Salvador's gangs, which have been estimated to count some 70,000 members in their ranks, have long controlled swaths of

territory and extorted and killed with impunity.

But Bukele's crackdown reached another level earlier this month when the government sent inmates into cemeteries to destroy the tombs of gang members at a time of year when families typically visit their loved ones' graves. □

Trade mission to fortify commercial links between Aruba and Panama

ORANJESTAD – Panamanian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through its vice-ministry of Foreign Commerce, invited local media to the Trade Mission Panama to Aruba event, which had the goal of fortifying commercial links between Panama and Aruba.

Members of the commercial mission, together with national director for promotion of export of the Republic of Panama, Eric Dormoi; representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Aruba, Sue-Ellen de Freitas; and minister of Economic Affairs, Communication and Sustainable Development of Aruba, Geoffrey Wever, on Wednesday morning inaugurated the first edition of the Trade Mission Panama to Aruba at the Renaissance Convention Center.

As part of an action plan of the government of the Republic of Panama, they implemented integral programs to identify and take advantage of opportunities in the region, Panama as a logistic hub has the capacity to offer goods and products of high standards to their Caribbean and Central American neighbors as an option to approach potential clients. For this reason they came to Aruba, where the com-



mercial sector is a part of their vision for economic development that the region requires, with the hope of fortifying commercial ties.

Dormoi explained that the connectivity between Aruba and Panama is currently very important, at a time when the war in Ukraine presents great challenges as well as the recent Covid-19 pandemic. "These

are times when we have to fortify our ties, friendly relations, of commercial connectivity", he said.

He added that Panama is ready to offer Aruba different products of export companies. "This is interesting because people can ask if Panama has ice machines, for example, and the answer is yes. This is why we want Aruba to see us as an option for providers",

Dormoi commented.

Minister Geoffrey Wever gave a short speech during the inauguration, pointing out that it was a special, important and unique event offering the opportunity to fortify business ties. Wever said he trusts that this will push for economic relations between both countries. In the current times with different political, economic and commercial panorama in the Latin American and Caribbean region, where commerce, inflation and economic cooperation remain central elements of strategic partnerships, Wever expressed that he wants to find some ways

to promote and deepen ties for mutual benefit.

Aruba's economy is recovering after losing approximately 22.5 percent of economic activity due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to forecasts of the Department of Economic Affairs of Aruba, the local economy will grow with 10 percent through 2022 and for 2023 the projection of economic growth is 4.5 percent nominal. The recovery of the tourism sector and private investments push economic growth which also represents interest areas for companies.

Projections from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also give indication of the economic recovery of Aruba, where the pandemic showed the value and importance of exploring other streams for economic progress, and to not depend only on tourism, Wever indicated. "We must create opportunities for companies to grow, not only in the local market but also in the international market. In this regard, recently we modernized the merchant permit policy, and now it is easier and is completely digitalized. Currently we are updating the free zone laws to facilitate that type of business", Wever said.

The geographic positions of both Panama and Aruba are yet another reason to further fortify the commercial and economic ties, according to Wever. □



Recognition of six musical legends

ORANJESTAD –On November 22, 2022, during a special event held at the John F. Kennedy Education Center, the Ministry of Culture, recognized six musical legends in Aruba on Saint Cecilia Day, the Patroness of music.

Minister Xiomara Maduro welcomed the legends and all present. The six recognized legends are Mr. Victor Camacho, Mr. Hyacintho (Casin) Giel, Mrs.

Gina Werleman,

spouse and representative of Mr. Felix (Chucho) Hoek, Mr. Roland (Chicho) Kock, Mr. Cesar Olarte, and Mr. Ivan Quandus. The Minister expressed gratitude to these musicians on International Music Day in honor of Santa Cecilia, patrons of musicians.

Victor Camacho

Mr. Victor Nicolas Camacho is a pianist who repre-

sented Aruba on various occasions and delighted tourists with his music at different hotels. Currently, he is performing as a solo pianist at the Riu Palace Hotel. He produced and composed many songs for the Voz-I-Landia competition and produced many records honoring Mr. Rufo Wever and Padu Lampe. He also performed with Savaneta Steelpan at the Cas di Cultura in 1965 for former Queen Juliana and Prince Bernard.

Hyacintho Giel

Mr. Hyacintho (Casin) Giel is a guitarist, pianist, and singer. He sings rancheras and boleros. He started his band 'Cassenger Sweet Band' and is a co-member and co-founder of many other bands like Super Combo Casino and Triple S.

Mr. Giel is the composer of most of the songs of Doble Sabor. During the Carnival season, he competes with his compositions at the Tumba Festival. He is Aruba's first Tumba King.

Felix Hoek

Mr. Felix (Chucho) Hoek has composed and arranged for many singers and bands. He is also known as a jingle arranger and composer. He was a member and director of numerous bands and assisted them in festivals and concerts. He was an instructor of classic, electric guitar, and bass guitar. He also gave theory classes about harmony, arrangement, and vocal and is now director of the Stichting Arubaanse Muziekschool/Scol di Musica Rufo Wever.



Roland Kock

Mr. Roland Naricisio (Chicho) Kock, is a band and steelpan player. He plays bass guitar, guitar, drums, conga, and timbal. He performed, played with bands, performed at hotels, and played with well-known local and international singers.

Cesar Olarte

Mr. Cesar Olarte was born into a musical family and surrounded by musicians throughout his childhood. He grew up with rancheras being part of the Mariachi Perla di Aruba family. From early on, Cesar dominated different musical genres like R&B and has delighted crowds both in Aruba and internationally. His greatest achievement was winning the Latin Grammy with Chichi Peralta & Son Familia.

Ivan Quandus

Sr. Ivan Quandus is a guitar, steelpan, and bass guitar player.

Together with Mr. Carlos Bislip and Mr. Delbert Bernabela, they form the Jazz trio of The Aruba Art Ensemble. Ivan performed at various local and international jazz festivals and was also part of various musical bands as a bass guitarist.

The musical career of these

six musical legends is impressive and extensive.

The Minister thanked each one of these musicians for their contributions and musical creations.

Their songs inspired and contributed to our cultural musical heritage and the promotion of Papiamentu internationally. □



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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at Divi Aruba All-inclusive

Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki' to the guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Mr. Edward & Mrs. Gail Tripp** from New York, USA.



Mr. & Mrs. Tripp has been consecutively. The Emerald Ambassador certifi-

cate is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors whom have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively. The ceremony was one of importance to us because honoring visitors whom have been coming to Aruba for over 35 years is incredibly rare and it was a very memorable moment for all of us.

Mr. & Mrs. Tripp stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, deli-

cious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to them. Mr. & Mrs. Tripp also brought their family to the island many times before.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Aruba All-inclusive presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort

Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor on of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as an Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The emerald Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki' to guests whom have visited Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The Emerald Ambassador certificate is the highest certificate that we present, and is only given to a few, making every part of this honoring ceremony even more special.

Ms. Richardson had the great pleasure to meet and honor Mrs. Elaine Robarge

from Florida, United States.

Mrs. Robarge stated that she loves the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, its nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, its delicious variety of foods, the number of casinos that Aruba has, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become family to her.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honoree, handed over some presents, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination and as her home-away-from-home. □



NET DOMESTIC ASSETS INCREASED WHILE NET FOREIGN ASSETS DECREASED

Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of September 2022

Monetary developments

In September 2022, money supply expanded by Afl. 17.3 million to Afl. 5,394.3 million, compared to August 2022, resulting from a surge in net domestic assets (+Afl. 189.9 million) and a drop in net foreign assets (-Afl. 172.6 million).

The expansion in the domestic component of the money supply was caused by a growth in domestic credit (+Afl. 193.6 million) and a decrease in non-credit-related balance sheet items (-Afl. 3.7 million). The rise in domestic credit was due to a surge in the net claims of the banking

sector on the public sector (+Afl. 178.5 million) and higher claims of the banking sector on the private sector (+Afl. 15.0 million). The growth in net claims of the banking sector on the public sector was the result of a decline in government deposits (-Afl. 184.6 million). The increase in claims of the banking sector on the private sector was caused by higher loans to enterprises (+Afl. 8.7 million), housing mortgages (+Afl. 4.1 million), and consumer credit (+Afl. 2.2 million).

In September 2022, the decline in net foreign assets of the banking sector was due to net sales of foreign

exchange of Afl. 452.8 million to the public, mainly associated with portfolio investment and payments for goods imports. These were partly offset by net purchases of foreign exchange of Afl. 280.2 million from the public, mostly related to foreign exchange revenue from tourism exports.

Inflation

The consumer price index (CPI) for September 2022 noted a 7.0 percent rise year-over-year (YOY) compared to a 7.7 percent increase (YOY) for August 2022. The main contributors to this increase were the "Housing" and "Transport"

components. The 12-month average inflation rate was 4.7 percent in September 2022, compared to 4.3 percent in August 2022.

Government

Total government revenue amounted to Afl. 97.7 million in September 2022, Afl. 8.9 million more than the same month of the previous year. The expansion in government revenue resulted from an increase in tax revenue (+Afl. 14.5 million) and a decrease in nontax revenue (-Afl. 5.6 million).

The growth in tax revenue was driven by expansion in income from turnover tax

(B.B.O./B.A.V.P.) (+Afl. 3.0 million), import duties (+Afl. 3.2 million), wage tax (+Afl. 2.6 million), land tax (+Afl. 2.2 million), and transfer tax (+Afl. 2.1 million).

Tourism

The number of stay-over visitors amounted to 78,261 in September 2022, which is 17,968 visitors (+29.8 percent) more than in September 2021. The North American market, the Latin American market, and the European market increased by 10,723 visitors (+22.2 percent), 3,226 visitors (+62.5 percent), and 2,843 visitors (+54.1 percent), respectively. □

Can I have a ..., please?



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and any-

where around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try a pastechi, a Ca-



ribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously. Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball. A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try some-

thing more familiar go for a homemade hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch. All these snacks are ridiculously addictive. Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, ba-

nana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check



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strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

Jordan and Sami Earnhardt celebrated their wedding in Aruba



Recently, Jordan Earnhardt and his bride Samantha "Sami" Blum – now Samantha Earnhardt – had their wedding in Aruba. Sami and Jordan live in Miami, Florida, both work in Private Equity.

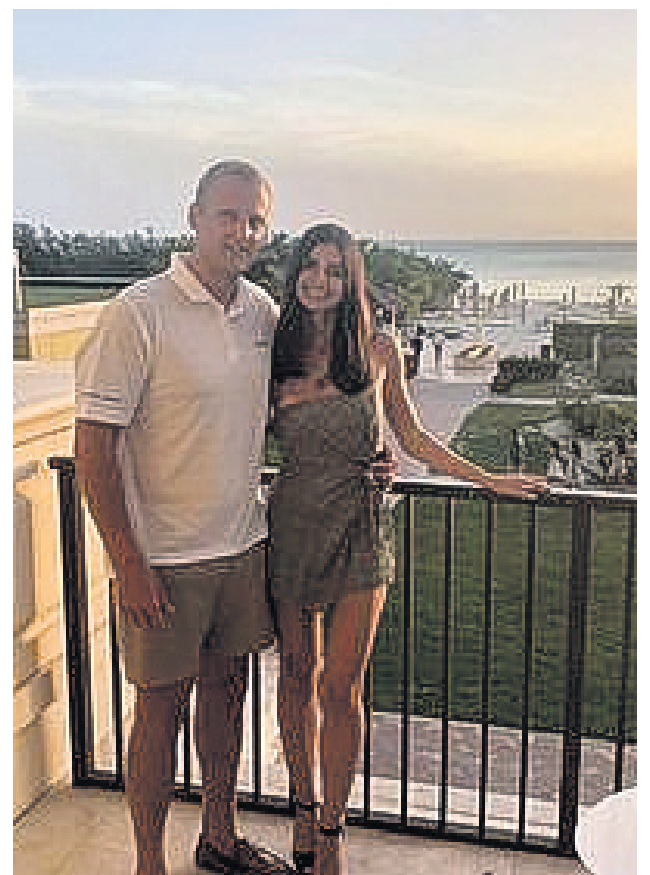
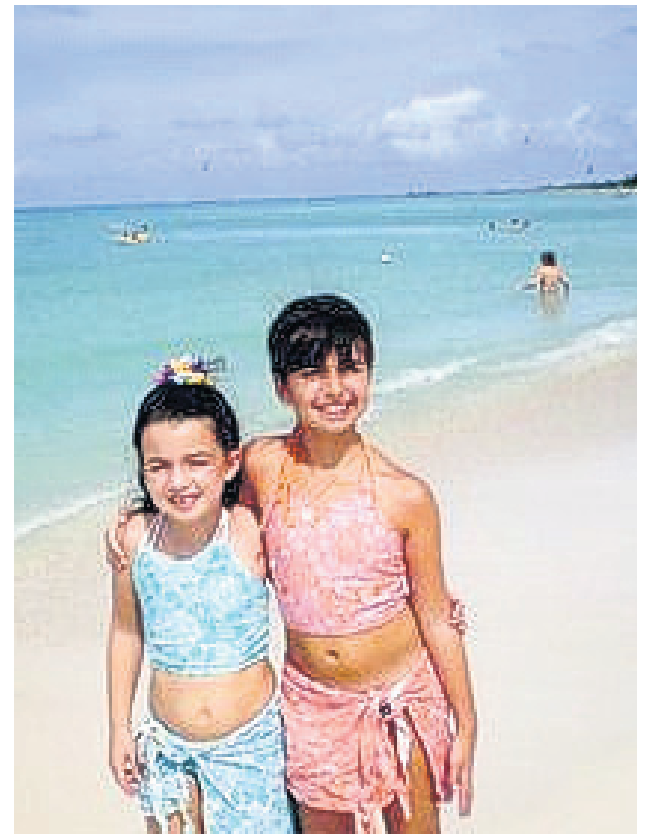
The couple told us: "We met at a career event at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania (USA). Jordan graduated several years before and was still living and working in Pittsburgh.

Sami was an aspiring CPA (certified public accountant) and Jordan was working at one of the firms that was at the career fair. Jordan and Sami ended up staying in touch after the career fair, and when Sami got her first job, Jordan asked her to celebrate with him on a date." She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2020 and they were engaged a few months later.

Sami had been coming to Aruba for over ten years, usually for Thanksgiving and to celebrate her birthday. In 2019, Jordan and Sami went on a vacation to Aruba for 9 days and Jordan fell in love with the island too. "We loved how safe it was, the amazing weather, beaches, and wildlife, and the incredible people we met along the way. We also love Eduardo's Beach Shack and were able to get Eduardo's before preparing for the wedding!"

"We had an amazing time in Aruba for our wedding and could not have imagined it going any better. Aruba never fails to exceed our expectations and we cannot wait to come back!" the couple said.

Congratulations!



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Nary a

- 1 Grotto soul
- 5 Air pipe bucks
- 9 Bias
- 11 Routine choice
- 13 More tender

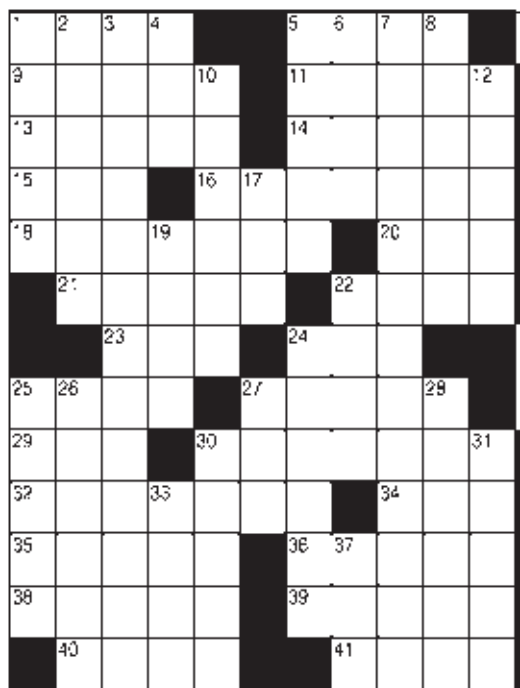
DOWN

- 14 On-ramp sign
- 15 Wrap up
- 16 Inform
- 18 Beginners
- 20 Owned by us
- 21 Virtuous one
- 22 Nile reptiles
- 23 Reading and others: Abbr.
- 24 Cal. column
- 25 Barney's buddy
- 27 Lures
- 29 Guitarist Paul
- 30 Held up
- 32 Hot breakfast
- 34 Biol. or geol.
- 35 Geometry class challenge
- 36 Patriot Allen
- 38 Start a set



Yesterday's answer

- 10 Readies for the game
- 12 Lusty looks
- 17 Fido or Fluffy
- 19 Rail or quail
- 22 Diva's piece
- 24 Collapsed
- 25 Producers' worries
- 26 Brought up
- 27 Arthur of TV
- 28 Cosine's reciprocal
- 30 Put off
- 31 Has a banquet
- 33 Chess turn
- 37 Overly



11-25

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

HCC WJI PIYHIN MHU MWLY
BIJY, KV TY GHQY BGY
MWJIIIFY BW SJINJY BGYL

— THCB PKNUYD

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: PIGLET NOTICED THAT EVEN THOUGH HE HAD A VERY SMALL HEART, IT COULD HOLD A RATHER LARGE AMOUNT OF GRATITUDE. A.A. MILNE

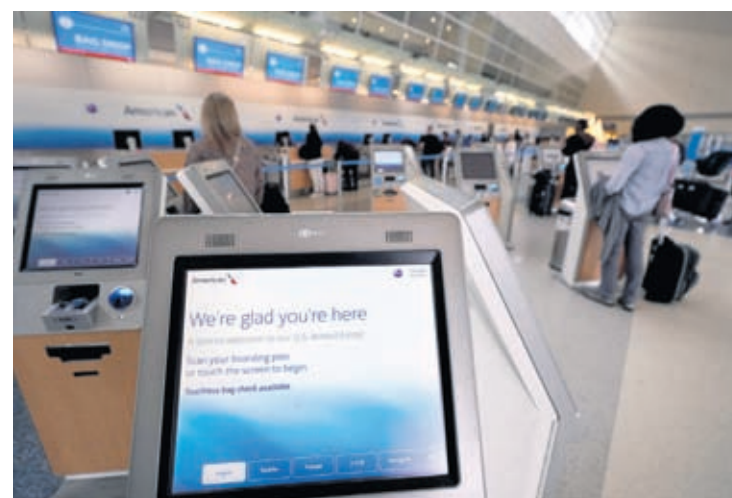
Why booking directly with airlines can be more expensive

By SAM KEMMIS
of NerdWallet

Early in the pandemic, many travelers experienced headaches while trying to rebook air travel purchased through third parties such as Orbitz and Kayak. Overloaded customer service centers and constantly changing airline policies resulted in a big mess at these agencies, prompting many travelers to book directly through the airline to avoid future issues. Yet as the dust settles on the pandemic and travel begins to return to normal, air passengers are experiencing a different reality: Booking directly through airlines involves navigating a maze of fees, add-on offers and confusing seat selection choices. The resulting price at checkout is often higher much higher than the advertised price. The issue has become so problematic that even President Biden has joined the fray. "You should know the full cost of your ticket, right when you're comparison shopping," he said in a press conference announcing a new Department of Transportation initiative to force airlines to disclose these fees. "So you can pick the ticket that is actually the best deal for you." Efforts to rein in airline fees are nothing new. The Obama administration tried and failed to enact similar regulations. And until meaningful changes are made, airline customers will be the ones footing the bill, especially if they use the airlines' own websites and apps to make their purchases.

THE FEE ERA

Since the rise of budget airlines such as Spirit and



Travelers use kiosk to check their bags as they arrive to travel out of Dallas/Fort Worth International airport Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022, in Grapevine, Texas.

Associated Press

Frontier, U.S. airlines have dramatically shifted how they make money. Rather than earning profit margin on airfare itself, which is highly competitive, airlines are increasingly focused on "ancillary revenue" from add-on fees, credit card rewards programs and seat upgrades. Between 2019 and 2021, ancillary fees as a percentage of total revenue for major U.S. airlines jumped six percentage points, from 16.1% to 22.2%, according to a report by IdeaWorks Company, an airline industry reporting firm. That follows a steady drumbeat of increased fee revenue going back to at least 2007. The upshot for customers: Saving money on air travel depends less on the base cost of the ticket itself and more on the add-ons avoided while checking out. Some of these add-ons, such as fees for carry-on bags, are relatively simple to avoid, while others, such as the difference between basic economy and regular economy (or "main cabin"), can be far more complex decisions.

MISMATCHED PRIORITIES

Airlines want customers to book through their own websites and apps for a simple reason: They tend to spend more money on ancillary fees. In a Security and Exchange Commission filing, American Airlines made this preference clear, citing its dependence on third parties such as online travel agencies as a potential risk factor. "We are also dependent upon the ability and willingness of these distribution channels to expand their ability to distribute and collect revenues for ancillary products (e.g., fees for selective seating)," the filing read. Basically, American Airlines admits that it makes a lot of money from ancillary fees, and is worried that third-party sellers won't push these fees as aggressively as it does. And this mismatch is exactly what provides an opportunity for savvy customers. Third-party services have an incentive to clarify rather than obscure these choices for customers, explained Melanie Fish, a spokesperson for Expedia, a third-party travel booking platform.

"When shopping for flights in the app, travelers can select a fare and see what's included by the airline in the ticket price, such as seat selection, cancellations or changes, as well as the cost for checked baggage, if applicable," Fish said by email. □

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24/7

Twitter, others slip on removing hate speech, EU review says

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Twitter took longer to review hateful content and removed less of it in 2022 compared with the previous year, according to European Union data released Thursday.

The EU figures were published as part of an annual evaluation of online platforms' compliance with the 27-nation bloc's code of conduct on disinformation.

Twitter wasn't alone most other tech companies signed up to the voluntary code also scored worse. But the figures could foreshadow trouble for Twitter in complying with the EU's tough new online rules after owner Elon Musk fired many of the platform's 7,500 full-time workers and an untold number of contractors responsible for content moderation and other crucial tasks.

The EU report, carried out over six weeks in the spring, found Twitter assessed just over half of the notifications it received about illegal hate speech within 24 hours, down from 82% in 2021.

In comparison, the amount of flagged material Facebook reviewed within 24 hours fell to 64%, Instagram slipped to 56.9% and YouTube dipped to 83.3%. TikTok came in at 92%, the only company to improve. The amount of hate speech Twitter removed after it was flagged up slipped to 45.4% from 49.8% the year before. TikTok's removal rate fell by a quarter to 60%, while Facebook and Instagram only saw minor declines. Only YouTube's takedown rate increased, surging to 90%.

"It's worrying to see a downward trend in reviewing notifications related to illegal hate speech by social media platforms," European Commission Vice President Vera Jourova tweeted. "Online hate speech is a scourge of a digital age and platforms

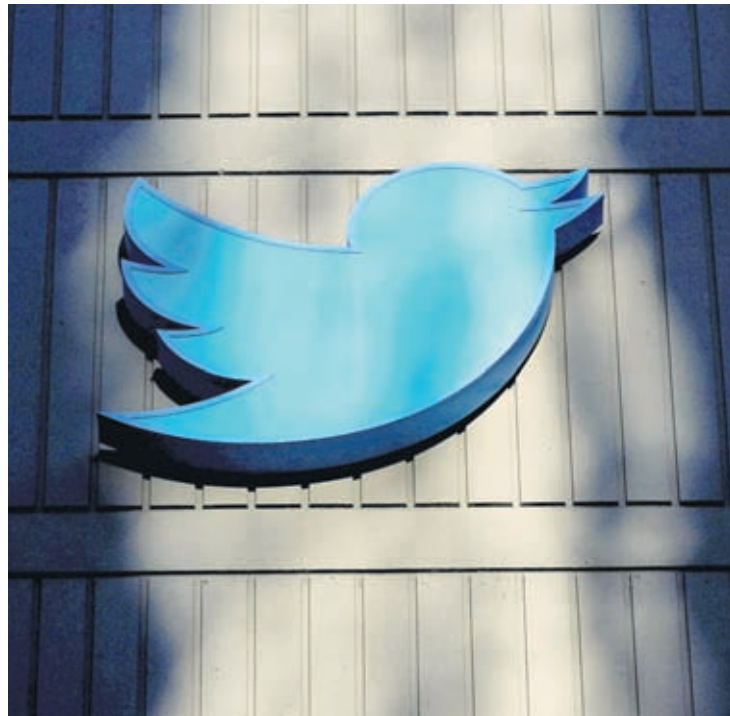
need to live up to their commitments."

Twitter didn't respond to a request for comment. Emails to several staff on the company's European communications team bounced back as undeliverable.

Musk's \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter last month fanned widespread concern that purveyors of lies and misinformation would be allowed to flourish on the site. The billionaire Tesla CEO, who has frequently expressed his belief that Twitter had become too restrictive, has been reinstating suspended accounts, including former President Donald Trump's.

Twitter faces more scrutiny in Europe by the middle of next year, when new EU rules aimed at protecting internet users' online safety will start applying to the biggest online platforms. Violations could result in huge fines of up to 6% of a company's annual global revenue.

France's online regulator Arcom said it received a reply from Twitter after writing to the company earlier this week to say it was concerned about the effect that staff departures would have on Twitter's "ability maintain a safe environment for its users."



A sign at Twitter headquarters is shown in San Francisco, Friday, Nov. 18, 2022.

Associated Press

Arcom also asked the company to confirm it can meet its "legal obligations" in fighting online hate speech and that it is committed to implementing the new EU online rules. Arcom said it received a response from Twitter and that it will "study their response," without giving more details.

Tech companies that signed up to the EU's disinformation code agree to commit to measures aimed at reducing disinformation and file regular reports on whether they're

living up to their promises, though there's little in the way of punishment. □

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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Pilar Flores

Richard Brooks

Angenette Figueroa

Sales

Mark Gomes

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
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E: news@arubatoday.com

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Justin Hartley embarks on new chapters after 'This is Us'

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

On NBC's "This is Us," Justin Hartley played Kevin Pearson: A man whose dreams of playing college football were derailed injury so he decided to try acting, and ended up a big star.

Hartley's own story has some strong parallels. He loved to play sports growing up but realized, as he got older, he wasn't cut out to play professionally.

"You realize there are too many people out there that are way better than you are. There's no more room for you. You have to find something else to do," he told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Like Kevin, that something else turned out to be acting. While in college, Hartley joined a theater group where audience members could get onstage and join in the dialogue, leaving the actors to just go with it.

"How you prep for something like that is you just do a lot of improv work, so you're kind of prepared for everything. They come up, they think they're being clever, they say something, you've already heard it. And I just fell in love with that that energy," he said. "You get that same kind of adrenaline rush from playing sports."

Fueled by the boldness of youth and the lack of any real responsibilities, Hartley



Justin Hartley poses for a portrait to promote "The Noel Diary" on Monday, Nov. 7, 2022, in New York.

decided to move out to Los Angeles and join the countless other wannabe actors looking for their big break.

"I know no one. I have no prospects. I have no job in LA. I've never been. I have no talent to speak of, and I don't know how to develop it," said Hartley. "'OK, let's go to LA and roll the dice and see what happens.' It kind of makes me sweat just thinking about it."

The experiment obviously paid off but it wasn't until "This is Us" debuted in 2016 that Hartley reached a level of fame that led to

security and opportunities. He has his own production company, Change Up Productions, where he's developing projects.

"You look at television and streaming. There are a million things out there. There are a million roles. They don't compare to how many talented actors there are out there," said Hartley. Hartley's first big role since "This is Us" aired its series finale last May is the Netflix holiday movie "The Noel Diary," based on the novel by Richard Paul Evans. He plays a popular author who returns to his child-

hood home to settle his late mother's estate and finds an old diary that leads him down a road of romance and reconciliation.

The film is directed by Charles Shyer, who directed "Father of the Bride" and "Father of the Bride II." "We shot this movie a while ago, so for people to finally be able to see it is pretty exciting for me," said Hartley, adding that while the story takes place around Christmas, they filmed in the middle of summer.

"It was in the nineties and it was muggy. And (Shyer) would just look at me and

go, 'I'm so sorry. You must be miserable.' It was hot," he added. "It was uncomfortable, I guess, because they kept putting coats on us, but it wasn't miserable. It was magic. It was wonderful. To celebrate, Christmas in the summer and then also get to celebrate in the winter is kind of cool." Hartley just shot a pilot with a former "This is Us" executive producer and director, Ken Olin, for CBS called "The Never Game," based on a book by Jeffrey Deaver. He's also a co-executive producer.

"I think it's a really neat sort of a throwback to classic older television in a way, these characters that you don't really see anymore," he said.

He also recently guest-starred in an episode of NBC "Quantum Leap" reboot with his wife, Sofia Pernas. The two had shared a couple scenes on "The Young & the Restless" before, he said, but didn't really know each other so he counts this as the first time he really got to work with her.

"She's hilarious. I got a kick out of it. Sofia is my best friend. She's my wife. I love her to death," he said. "She means everything to me, but my character on that show she was annoying him, and I thought that was kind of funny. We had a blast." □

Associated Press



Vic Martinez of Martinez reacts as he watches the U.S. vs Wales World Cup Soccer game at The Crossing during a World Cup watch event on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022 in San Francisco, Calif.

Associated Press

U.S. World Cup return vs Wales viewed by 11.7 million

draw with Wales at the World Cup was viewed by 11.7 million for its English- and Spanish-language broadcasts.

The game Monday, which kicked off at 2 p.m. EST, was seen by 8,306,000 for Fox's English-language telecast and 3.4 million for the Spanish-language offering on Telemundo, Telemundo digital and Peacock, part of Comcast Corp.'s NBCUniversal.

Fox said the match was viewed by 563,000 on streams, the network's

group-stage high since taking over U.S. English-language rights for the 2018 tournament. There were 1.0 million streams on Telemundo and Peacock, the most-streamed Spanish-language World Cup match.

The 2014 U.S. opener in Brazil, which started at 6 p.m. EDT on a Saturday in mid-June, was seen by 11.1 million on ESPN and 4.8 million on Univision.

That was down from 17.3 million on ABC and Univision for the Americans'

opening 1-1 draw against England in South Africa in 2010, a game that started at 2:30 p.m. EDT on a Saturday in mid-June.

Fox's average of 4,026,000 for its first three telecasts this year was up 193% from the 1,374,000 for the first three matches in 2018, when the U.S. failed to qualify.

Telemundo's coverage averaged 2.6 million for the first four matches, up 73% from 1.5 million for the first four matches four years ago. □

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States' opening 1-1

Inflation or not, price of pro sports teams keeps going up

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

Inflation isn't going to hurt the bankrolls of sports team owners. In fact, it may help. While the uber-rich will have to pay a little more for their eggs at the grocery store — just like everyone else — inflation isn't likely to affect the bottom lines at their sports properties.

"I'm resting pretty easy if I'm an owner," said Tim Clarke, a senior analyst at PitchBook, which researches private financial markets. "That's how people are viewing assets of the professional sports industry. They're just not going down." Inflation surged this year to levels unseen for four decades, slowing the economy and raising prices for consumers from the checkout line to the gas pump. For the most part, sports are no exception: Rising costs are making it more expensive for fans to go to games, for families who participate in youth sports and for college athletic departments trying to stay on budget.

But the millionaires and billionaires who own sports teams won't be feeling the pinch, whether it's the day-to-day cost of running the business or the sale price when they decide to move on. On the contrary: A franchise can be a safe place to park money and ride out a bear market.



Denver Broncos owner Rob Walton waits for the team's NFL football game against the Las Vegas Raiders in Denver on Nov. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

"I do think there is somewhat of a hedge," said Inner Circle Sports CEO Rob Tillis, who has worked on the sale of dozens of teams in all four major U.S. pro sports and the top international leagues. "I have been doing this for 30 years. We've been through lots of business cycles and valuations have been strong. I don't see that as any different now."

Most sports owners are also well-capitalized enough to keep their team budgets separate from their outside business and other sources of wealth. So even though rising interest rates have cooled the housing market, that's unlikely to affect Cleveland Cavaliers and Rocket Mortgage owner Dan Gilbert, who with an estimated net worth of almost \$52 billion is the 23rd-

richest man in the world, according to Forbes magazine.

(One exception: Losses in the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme squeezed the Mets payroll and forced owner Fred Wilpon to sell off first part, then the rest of the team.)

"These guys, they have so much money that I think if they start to get pinched elsewhere, it's more or less a rounding error for their clubs," said Tom Pitts, the European head of LionRock Capital, a private equity firm that has a one-third interest in the Inter Milan soccer team. "Most of these guys haven't stretched to buy the club. It's an expensive hobby."

Rising interest rates could make it more expensive for would-be owners to buy into the club if they have

to borrow money to pay for their new prize. "It just costs a lot more money in absolute dollars to service the debt," Pitts said.

A handful of high-profile teams are currently on the market.

Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder, who is under pressure to sell his team after an investigation revealed a toxic corporate culture, says he would consider unloading all or part of the once-proud NFL franchise. It is expected to fetch even more than the \$4.65 billion paid for the Denver Broncos this summer by Walmart heir Rob Walton, who with an estimated net worth of \$61 billion is the 16th-richest person in the world.

Robert Sarver has put his teams, the NBA's Phoenix Suns and the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, on the market after an investigation found evidence of a racially and sexually insensitive workplace. Baseball's Washington Nationals are for sale and the family that owns the Baltimore Orioles has made noise about selling, as well. The NHL's Ottawa Senators can also be had for the right price.

Two of English soccer's biggest names, Manchester United and Liverpool, are also on the market. Man U. was valued by Forbes in September at \$4.6 billion — just a bit higher than Liver-

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Group G		G	
SUI	1 - 0	CAM	nov 24
BRA	2 - 0	SER	nov 24

Group H		H	
URU	0 - 0	KOR	nov 24
POR	3 - 2	GHA	nov 24

Group A		A	
QAT	- -	SEN	nov 25
NED	- -	ECU	nov 25

Group B		B	
USA	- -	WAL	nov 25
ENG	- -	IRN	nov 25

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pool; both are expected to eclipse the \$3.2 billion price paid for Chelsea this spring that was briefly the highest ever for a sports team. □

NBA suspends Lakers' Beverley 3 games for shoving Ayton

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

The NBA gave Patrick Beverley a three-game suspension Thursday, two days after the Los Angeles Lakers guard was ejected for shoving Phoenix's Deandre Ayton from behind. The suspension will cost Beverley \$268,966, or about 2.1% of his \$13 million salary.

It's the second time Beverley has been suspended for shoving someone from behind; the other came in the last game of the

Los Angeles Clippers' 2021 playoff run, when he struck Suns guard Chris Paul from the back and had to sit out the first game of the 2021-22 season.

"The suspension was based in part on Beverley's history of unsportsmanlike acts," the NBA said in announcing the sanction.

Beverley was ejected with 3:55 left in the Lakers' loss at Phoenix on Tuesday. Phoenix's Devin Booker committed a flagrant foul against the Lakers' Austin Reaves, who remained down on

the floor briefly after the hit. Ayton stepped toward Reaves when he was still down, and Beverley charged in to give Ayton a shove. Ayton and Beverley were both assessed technical fouls, and Beverley was ejected.

"Tough foul, hard foul, Austin gets knocked down, there's a little bit of chirping going on with Book and Ayton and some of our guys, and then from what I saw Ayton was just standing there about to walk over him," Lakers



Los Angeles Lakers guard Patrick Beverley, right, passes the ball while defended by San Antonio Spurs forward Jeremy Sochan during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022 in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

coach Darvin Ham said Tuesday. "And then Pat Bev ... you don't want this to be a tough-man competition. You actually

want to play tough basketball. But at the end of the day, I'm not mad at him. He's there protecting his teammate." □

White steps in, focused on giving Jets a 'fighting chance'

By **DENNIS WASZAK Jr.**
AP Pro Football Writer
FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)

— Mike White has already made it into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

So replacing a struggling Zach Wilson and trying to spark a stagnant offense should be no biggie for the New York Jets' new starting quarterback.

Right?

"Any time you step in the huddle as a quarterback and you have grown men looking at you, it means something to me, whether we're 0-16 or if we're fighting for a playoff spot," White said. "I'm focused on the Bears and focused on performing well enough for these guys in the locker room and help give us all a fighting chance to win ballgames."

That's all the Jets — in the middle of the playoff hunt at 6-4 — are asking of White, who'll get his first regular-season NFL start in more than a year Sunday at MetLife Stadium against Chicago.

"For Mike, it's obviously a great opportunity for him," coach Robert Saleh said. "And I know he'll attack it." Saleh announced the team's decision Wednesday it was benching Wilson, the No. 2 overall pick in last year's draft, and starting White. Wilson is coming off



New York Jets quarterback Mike White (5) practices before a preseason NFL football game against the New York Giants, Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

a brutal performance in New York's 10-3 loss at New England last Sunday during which he was 9 of 22 for just 77 yards. The Jets managed 2 total yards on seven possessions in the second half. Saleh insisted it's a temporary mental and physical "reset" for Wilson. The coach will evaluate the position daily, but this is now White's opportunity. Again.

"You've got to stay ready," White said, "because when your moment does come and if you let it pass by, you're going to look back

on it and be frustrated with it."

Entering last season, White was merely another arm in Jets camp. A few months later, he briefly became a headline-making folk hero for his three-touchdown, 405-yard performance in his first NFL start — a 34-31 win over Cincinnati.

White's 37 completions set a league record for a player making his first start, and his jersey and game ball ended up on display in Canton, Ohio.

"He's a baller," wide receiver Braxton Berrios said.

White was a fifth-round pick by Dallas out of Western Kentucky in 2018. He was signed to New York's practice squad a year later and worked in relative obscurity while the focus was set on Sam Darnold and then Wilson.

When Wilson injured his right knee against New England in Week 7 last season, White replaced him and got the start the following week. In that victory against the Bengals — with fans chanting his name — White joined Cam Newton (2011) as the only players

since 1950 to pass for at least 400 yards in their first career start.

But he hurt his right forearm early in a loss at Indianapolis and was intercepted four times the following week in a defeat against Buffalo. Joe Flacco replaced him as the starter until Wilson returned — and White hasn't taken a snap in a regular-season game since.

And he wasn't sure when — if ever — the next would come.

"You go through those mental battles," White said, "and you've got to pick yourself back up and focus."

Flacco started the first three games this season while Wilson was sidelined with another knee injury, and there were times the home crowd chanted for White to play as the Jets started 1-2. He heard them, but couldn't give in to wondering, "What if?"

"I appreciate the support," White said. "But once you start to get out of this locker room, you can get down rabbit holes and let your mind wander and you kind of become unfocused."

Last month, the Jets promoted White from No. 3 on the depth chart past Flacco. Saleh said they would want to see what White could do in case Wilson was injured. □



Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen (17) runs into the end zone for a 3-yard touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022, in Detroit.

Associated Press

By **LARRY LAGE**
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Tyler Bass made a tiebreaking, 45-yard field goal with 2 sec-

onds left, lifting the Buffalo Bills to a 28-25 win over the Detroit Lions on Thursday for their second victory in five days at Ford Field.

Bills beat Lions 28-25 for 2nd win in 5 days at Ford Field

Josh Allen set up the game-winning kick by starting the drive with a 36-yard pass to Stefon Diggs and running twice for 12 yards.

Buffalo (8-3) has won two straight to move a half-game ahead of Miami in the AFC East.

The Bills were back in Detroit after the NFL shifted their previous home game against Cleveland to Ford Field because of a winter storm dumping several feet of snow in western New York.

They had to work harder for the win on Thursday than they did against the Browns. Bass was 6 for 6 on

field goals in the 31-23 win over Cleveland.

Allen threw a go-ahead, 5-yard touchdown pass to Diggs with 2:40 left, but Bass missed the extra point to make it 25-22.

The Lions converted fourth-and-1 from midfield with Amon-Ra St. Brown's 7-yard end-around to set up Michael Badgley's game-tying, 51-yard field goal with 23 seconds to go. Badgley missed a 29-yard field goal late in the third and Jared Goff took a sack for a safety in the same quarter and those mistakes proved to be costly.

Allen had a passing and

rushing touchdown in the first half, finishing 24 of 42 for 253 yards to more than make up for throwing his 11th interception of the season.

Detroit (4-7) missed an opportunity to win four straight games for the first time since 2016 and lost a franchise-record sixth straight game on Thanksgiving.

Goff was 23 of 37 for 240 yards with 1-yard touchdown pass to St. Brown that made it 14-all late in the first half, and a 1-yard touchdown to DJ Chark that pulled the Lions within three points early in third quarter at 22-19. □